

**DELL**

Movie  
Classic

NO. 1148

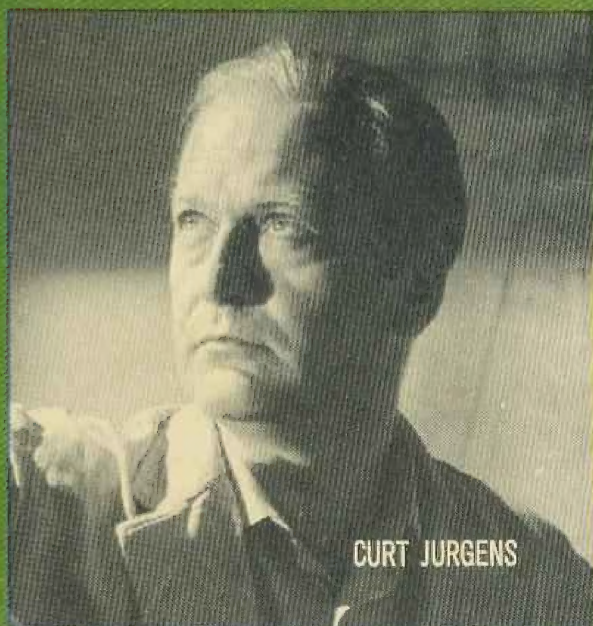
Still 10¢



# I AIM AT THE STARS

**The Wernher von Braun Story**

The big-as-space drama of the satellite launchings . . . and how Wernher von Braun is turning science-fiction into reality!



CURT JURGENS

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COLUMBIA PICTURES presents  
**CURT JURGENS • VICTORIA SHAW**

in the CHARLES H. SCHNEER Production

# I AIM AT THE STARS

The Wernher von Braun Story

also starring **GIA SCALA • HERBERT LOM**  
and **JAMES DALY**

Screenplay by JAY DRATLER

Story by GEORGE FROESCHEL, U. WOLTER, H. W. JOHN

Directed by J. LEE THOMPSON

A MORNINGSIDE PRODUCTION



Dr. Wernher von Braun sees war turn his dream of space flight into a nightmare of destruction.



Then he becomes a war prisoner and fights back courageously against hatred and misunderstanding.



Later, his dream is reborn in a new land, where he is able to continue his experiments in space flights.



But there are those who fear rockets will again be used as a method of mass destruction.



Despite every obstacle he remains steadfast in his belief that some day mankind will reach the stars.



# I AIM AT THE STARS

AT A BERLIN PLANETARIUM, ONE AFTERNOON IN 1925...

AND SOMEDAY MANKIND WILL REACH OUT TO THESE UNKNOWN PLANETS, STARS--THESE UNKNOWN WORLDS! FOR WHATEVER MAN DARES TO DREAM, HE WILL ACCOMPLISH!

AS THE PROGRAM ENDS, A BOY SITS SPELL-BOUND IN HIS SEAT...

WERNHER, LET'S GO! YOU'LL CATCH A COLD WAY OUT THERE IN DEEP SPACE WITHOUT A SWEATER ON!

ALL RIGHT, MISCHKE, I-- I'M COMING!

YOU'LL SEE, MISCHKE, SOMEDAY MAN *WILL* GET TO THE STARS!

YOU AND YOUR STARS! IF YOU WANT TO GET THERE, YOU'D BETTER START GROWING TAIL-FEATHERS!

ROCKET POWER! THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO GET MAN INTO SPACE! WE'RE GOING TO THOSE SPEED TRIALS TOMORROW!

WE REALLY SHOULD BE GOING TO SCHOOL! BUT-- ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO WITH YOU!

BERLIN'S AVUS SPEEDWAY

SPEED TRIAL OF FRITZ VON OPEL'S ROCKET-PROPELLED AUTOMOBILE

LATE THAT SAME NIGHT...

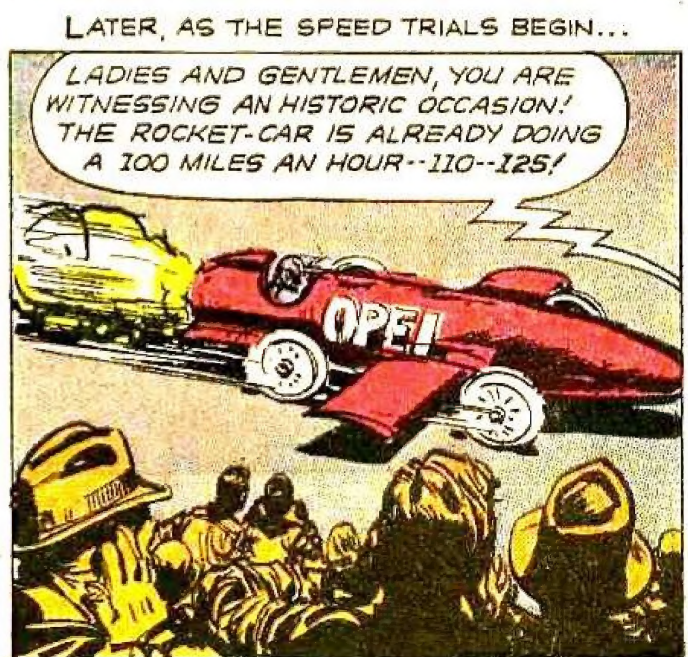
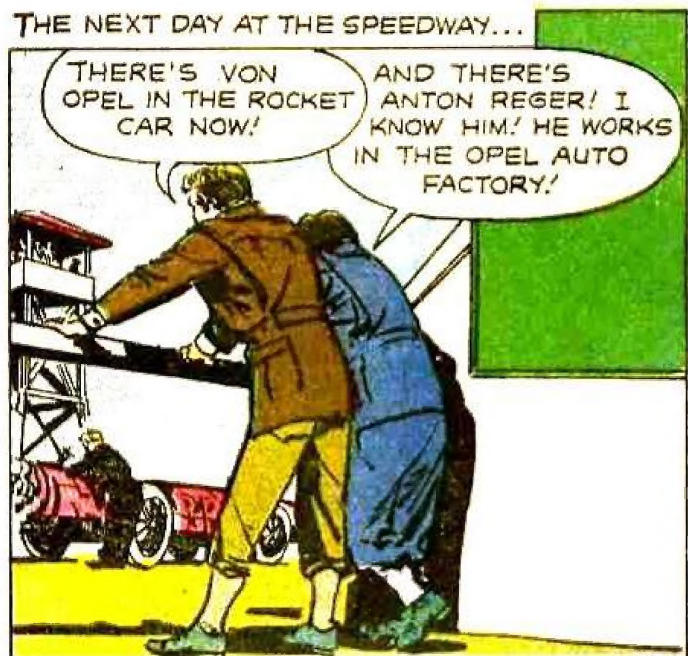
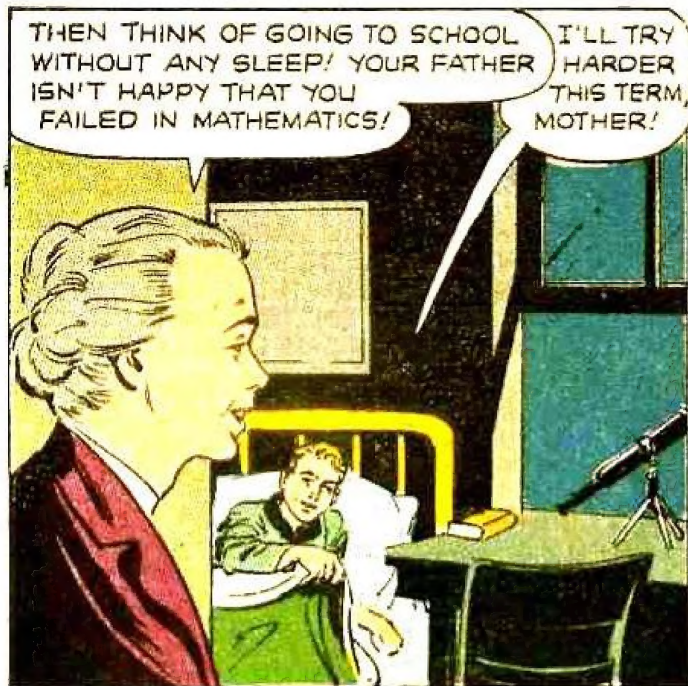
WERNHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AT *THIS* HOUR? I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BOUGHT YOU THAT TELESCOPE!

MOTHER, I-- I COULDN'T SLEEP! I WAS THINKING--

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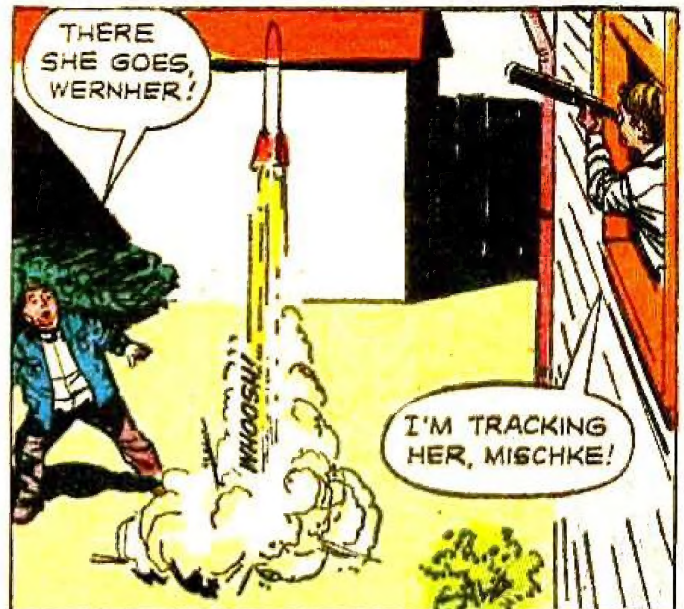






"ROCKET TO THE PLANETS!"  
YES, I MUST GET THAT BOOK!

OBSESSED BY HIS DREAMS OF SPACE TRAVEL,  
YOUNG WERNHER TRIES AN EXPERIMENT...



THERE  
SHE GOES,  
WERNHER!

I'M TRACKING  
HER, MISCHKE!



THE ROCKET  
STRUCK MR.  
BECKER'S  
GREENHOUSE!

THE NEXT DAY FINDS THE YOUNG ROCKETEER  
ON THE CARPET...



WERNHER, THANKS TO  
YOUR EXPERIMENTS, I'LL  
HAVE TO PAY FOR BECKER'S  
GREENHOUSE! WHAT GOOD  
ARE THOSE ROCKETS OF  
YOURS, ANYWAY?

FATHER, WHAT GOOD  
IS A NEWBORN  
BABY? YOU CAN'T  
TELL UNTIL IT  
GROWS UP,  
CAN YOU?



A GOOD QUESTION! BUT ANYHOW, I  
INSIST THAT IF A VON BRAUN SHOOTS TRY TO  
OFF A ROCKET, IT SHOULD GO REMEM-  
BER THAT, SIR!

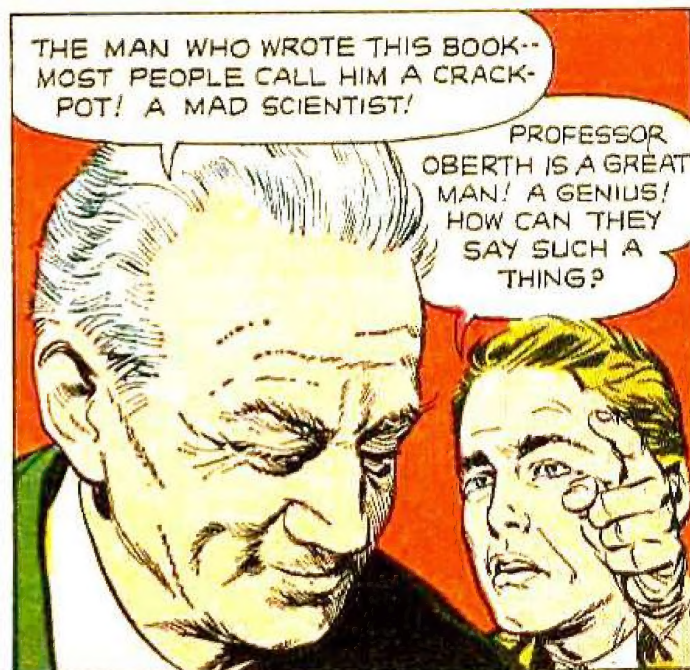
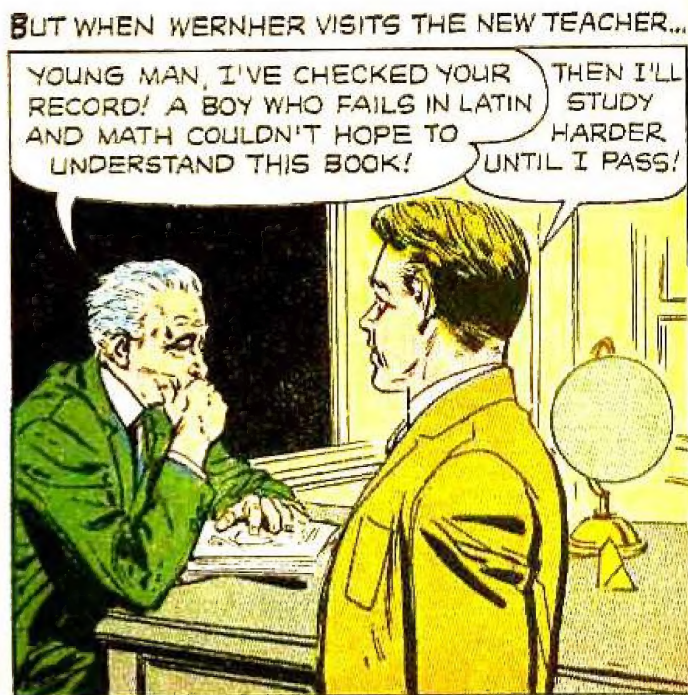
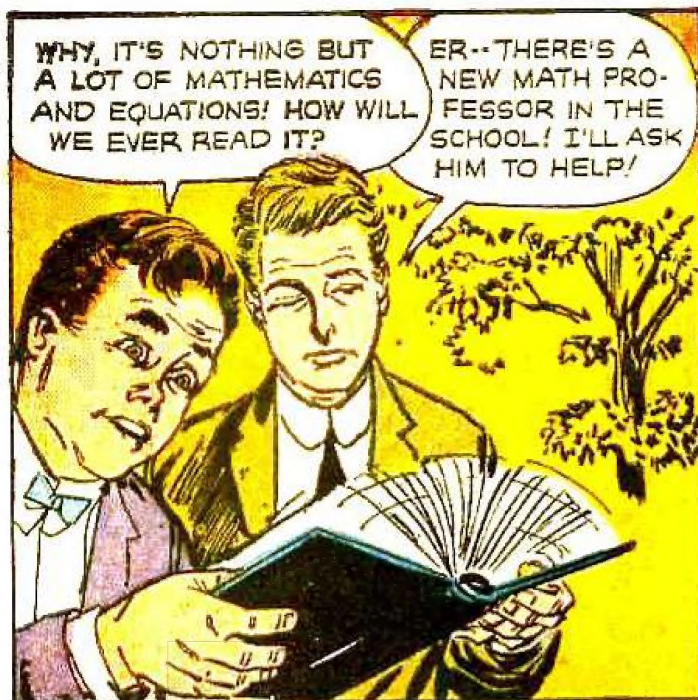
THEN, ONE DAY, ON THE SCHOOL STEPS...



LOOK, MISCHKE! THE BOOK  
THAT ANTON REGER MENTIONED  
CAME IN THE MAIL!

"ROCKET TO  
THE PLANETS"  
BY PROFES-  
SOR OBERTH!





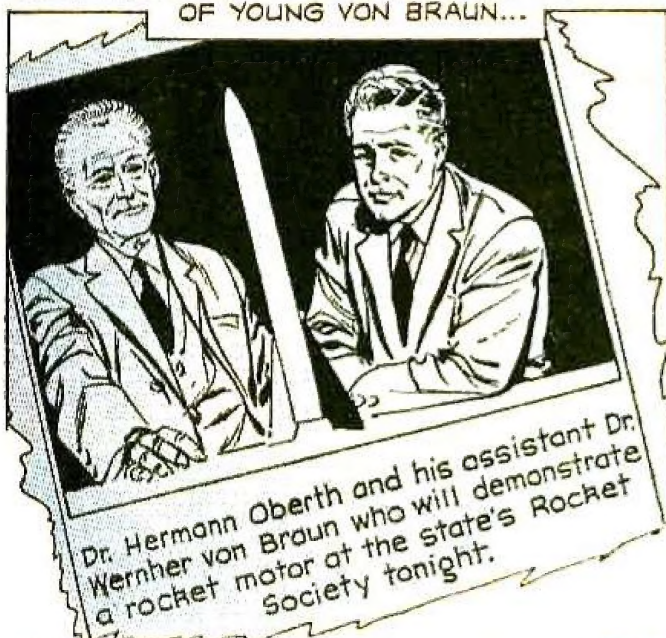


IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOW, YOUNG WERNHER COMES OF AGE, TOGETHER WITH THE YOUNG SCIENCE OF ROCKETRY...

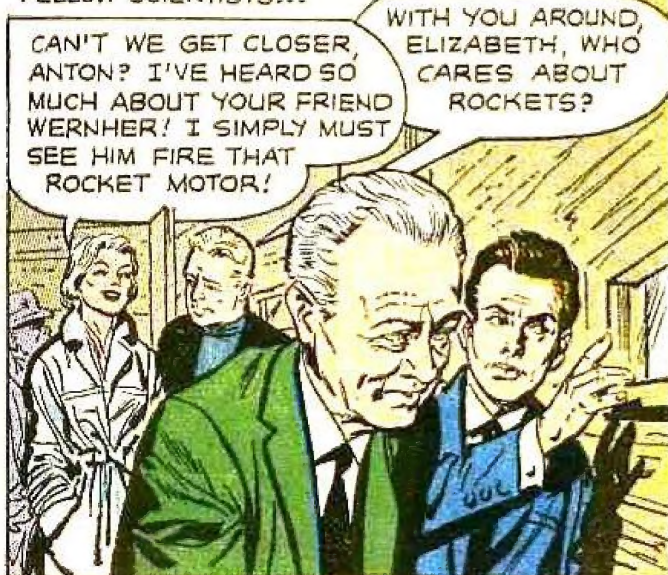


SOON THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD IS TAKING NOTICE OF YOUNG VON BRAUN...

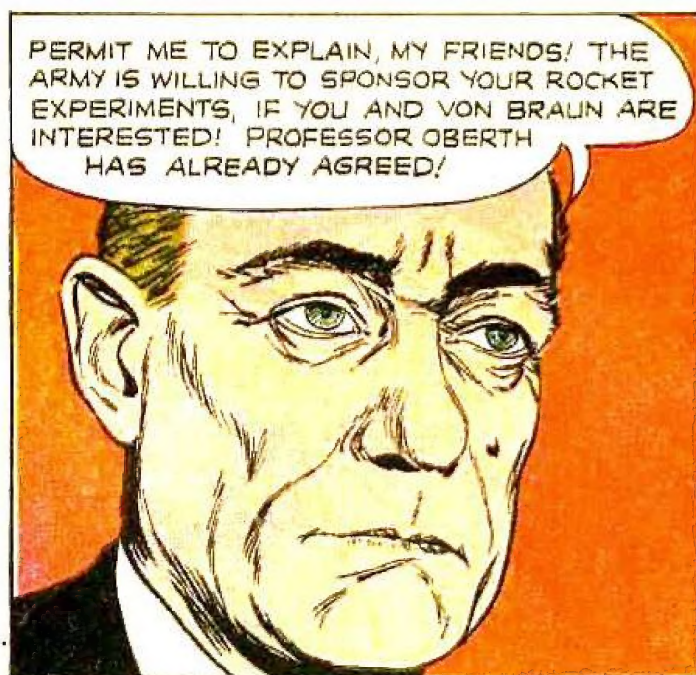
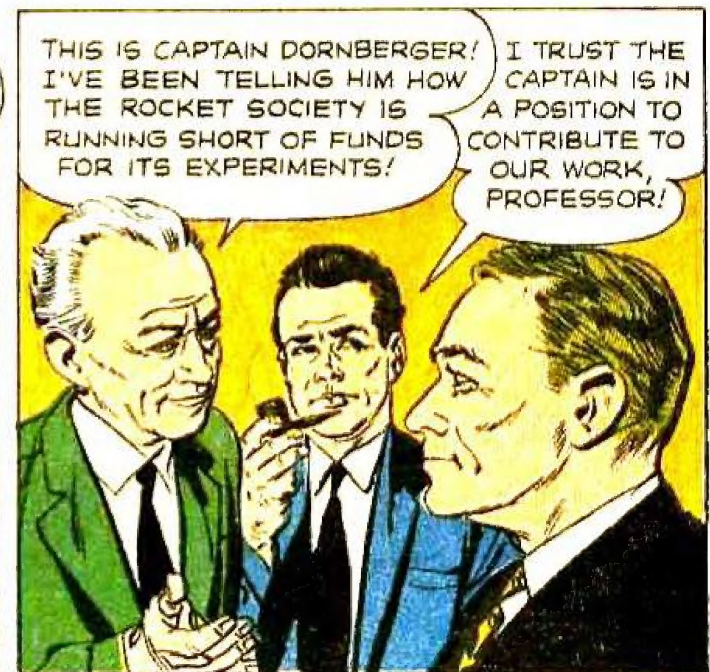
THAT EVENING, AS WERNHER PREPARES THE EXPERIMENT...



BEYOND THE SAFETY WALL, THE HALL IS CROWDED WITH WERNHER'S FRIENDS AND FELLOW SCIENTISTS...









YEARS PASS, AS THE YOUNG SCIENTIST CONTINUES HIS ROCKET EXPERIMENTS UNDER ARMY AUSPICES...



BUT WHILE WERNHER IS BUSY WITH HIS EXPERIMENTS, THE WORLD OUTSIDE IS PLUNGING RAPIDLY INTO CHAOS...



THEN, ONE DAY, THE INEVITABLE CONFLICT-- WORLD WAR II BEGINS...

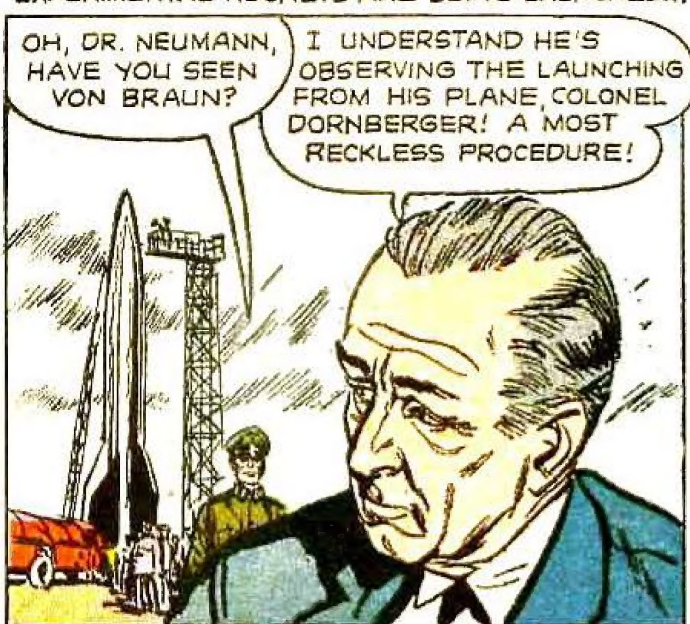


IT CONTINUES ON ITS UGLY COURSE, WHEN ONE DAY IN THE OFFICE OF BRITISH INTELLIGENCE...





AT THAT VERY MOMENT AT PEENEMÜNDE,  
EXPERIMENTAL ROCKETS ARE BEING LAUNCHED...



AT THAT MOMENT HIGH ABOVE THE LAUNCHING  
SITE...



BUT AS IF BY A MIRACLE, VON BRAUN'S PLANE  
SURVIVES...





THAT AFTERNOON, OUTSIDE OF VON BRAUN'S OFFICE...

ELIZABETH, EVER SINCE I GOT YOU THAT JOB AS WERNHER'S SECRETARY, YOU HAVE ALMOST NO TIME FOR ME AT ALL! MAY I SEE YOU TONIGHT?

YOU KNOW I'M JUST AS FOND OF YOU AS EVER, ANTON! BUT--WELL, I JUST CAN'T SEE YOU TONIGHT!



OH, REGER, IT'S TIME FOR THE MEETING! WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THE FILM OF THE LATEST ROCKET MODEL!

I-I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU, WERNHER!



AT THE MEETING AS THE FILM IS SHOWN...

THE VAPOR TRAIL SHOWS A STRUCTURAL FAILURE IN THE CONTROL VANES!... A FAILURE DUE TO THE POOR QUALITY OF STEEL IN THE VANE!

WE WOULDN'T HAVE SO MUCH DIFFICULTY GETTING THE PROPER MATERIALS IF WE HAD CLOSER CONTACT WITH THE S.S. AND THE HEADS OF THE PARTY!



LOOK, NEUMANN, I'M A **SCIENTIST**! I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HITLER AND THAT PARTY STUFF!

IT'S YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PEOPLE IN POWER THAT KEEPS US FROM GETTING BETTER MATERIALS AND MORE MONEY, VON BRAUN!



AS THE MEETING BREAKS UP IN DISAGREEMENT...

WERNHER, THIS IS THE THIRD YEAR OF THE WAR! THE HIGH COMMAND ISN'T INTERESTED IN YOUR DREAMS OF SPACE FLIGHT! ALL THEY WANT IS A ROCKET THAT CAN REACH LONDON!

COLONEL DORNBERGER, A ROCKET THAT CAN REACH THE STARS CAN ALSO BE AIMED AT LONDON--IF THEY INSIST!



LET'S BUILD THAT ROCKET BEFORE HIMMLER AND THE S.S. MOVE IN ON US! THEY'VE ALREADY PLANTED NEUMANN HERE! HE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOUR JOB!

I KNOW! IF HE WASN'T SUCH A GOOD ENGINEER, I COULD REALLY DISLIKE HIM!





THAT WEEK END WERNHER RETURNS HOME FOR A FAMILY CELEBRATION...

WERNHER, I THOUGHT YOU CAME HERE FOR MY BIRTHDAY PARTY! YOU HAVEN'T TURNED YOUR EYES AWAY FROM MARIA ALL EVENING!

DOESN'T SHE LOOK LOVELY TONIGHT, MOTHER? EACH TIME I SEE HER SHE LOOKS LOVELIER THAN BEFORE!



WERNHER, I KNOW IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS--BUT I DON'T THINK A GIRL AS PRETTY AS THAT WOULD WAIT FOR YOU FOREVER!

DON'T WORRY, MOTHER, I INTEND TO PROPOSE TO HER TONIGHT!



BUT THE GAIETY OF THE PARTY IS SOON INTERRUPTED...

WE CIVILIANS DO OUR PART, TOO! WE CAN WEAR *THIS* SYMBOL WITH PRIDE! THE PARTY MAKES US ONE NATION, ONE PEOPLE--**UNCONQUERABLE!**

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE WERNHER, MAYOR WEBER, HE PROMISED TO TAKE ME FOR A WALK IN THE GARDEN!



THANKS, MARIA, FOR RESCUING ME FROM WEBER AND HIS

THE POOR FELLOW DOESN'T REALIZE THE ONLY THINGS THAT INTEREST YOU ARE ROCKETS AND SPACE TRAVEL!

PROPAGANDA!



IT'S TRUE! IT'S AN OBSESSION! I CAN'T GIVE UP THINKING ABOUT IT! BUT, PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME--BY MARRYING ME!

WERNHER, YOU KNOW MY ANSWER!



OF COURSE, DARLING!

MARIA!





LATER THAT EVENING, AFTER THE GUESTS LEAVE...



WERNHER, I HEARD WEBER SPEAKING TO YOU! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT JOINING THE PARTY?

I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, MOTHER! NOT IF I WANT TO STAY AT PEENEMÜNDE!



LONG AGO THEY SAID THAT WITCHES MADE A PACT WITH THE DEVIL SO THEY COULD FLY THEIR BROOMSTICKS!

MY BROOMSTICKS FLY WITHOUT THE DEVIL'S HELP! BUT IF THEY DIDN'T, I'D BE WILLING TO SIGN UP WITH HIM!

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, HIMMLER AND HIS S.S. INCREASE THEIR PRESSURE ON VON BRAUN...



IN THREE YEARS YOU HAVE ACHIEVED NOTHING, DR. VON BRAUN! ROCKET AFTER ROCKET FAILS! I TELL YOU *THIS* TIME GERMANY AND THE PARTY EXPECT SUCCESS!

I UNDERSTAND, GENERAL KULP?



AND NOW, GENERAL KULP, IF YOU WOULD STEP DOWN INTO THE OBSERVATION POST--WE ARE ABOUT TO TEST THE LATEST MODEL OF OUR ROCKET WEAPONS!

I TRUST THE LAUNCHING WILL BE SUCCESSFUL! OTHERWISE, THERE MAY BE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES!



IT'S A MISFIRE! SHE EXPLODED ON THE LAUNCHING PAD!



THANK YOU FOR THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY! IT IS A PITY YOU HAVE NOTHING TO CELEBRATE!

EACH TEST FAILURE IS ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR KULP AND THE S.S.!



THE NEXT DAY...

WON'T THOSE FOOLS EVER LEARN THAT YOU NEED *TIME* TO DEVELOP A ROCKET? NO AMOUNT OF PESTERING BY ALL THESE *LITTLE HITLERS* WILL EVER CHANGE THAT!

PLEASE, DR. VON BRAUN, PERMIT ME TO FINISH READING THE COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HIGH COMMAND!



...AND UNLESS THERE WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, PEENEMÜNDE WILL BE CLOSED!

THERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN! AN ULTIMATUM!



WELL, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT IN TIME?

THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER, COLONEL! WE WILL TRY!



IN THE HECTIC WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, VON BRAUN AND HIS STAFF WORK NIGHT AND DAY...



THEN ONE AFTERNOON...

THAT WAS COLONEL DORNBERGER ON THE PHONE, DR. VON BRAUN, HE WANTS YOU AND THE OTHERS IN HIS OFFICE FOR A MEETING!

THANK YOU! WE'RE GOING RIGHT IN, ELIZABETH!



THEY'RE GONE! AND THEY'VE LEFT THESE NEW DESIGNS HERE ON THE DRAWING BOARD! THIS IS MY CHANCE!





A FLICK OF HER FINGERS AND THE LIPSTICK CASE BECOMES A MINIATURE CAMERA...



AN INSTANT LATER, REGER RETURNS MOMENTARILY...



OH, ELIZABETH, WERNHER WANTS THE BLUEPRINTS OF THAT NEW TAIL ASSEMBLY!

ER -- THEY'RE RIGHT HERE ON THIS TABLE, ANTON!



SAY, ISN'T THAT A NEW SHADE OF LIPSTICK YOU'RE USING?

OF COURSE NOT, ANTON! IT'S JUST THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE NOTICED!



WORK PROCEEDS SWIFTLY ON THE NEW ROCKET MODELS. THEN, ONE DAY...

SHE'S REACHED MAXIMUM ALTITUDE AND SHE'S STILL GOING!



IMPACT! DISTANCE TO POINT OF IMPACT 161 MILES! ALTITUDE 52 MILES!

GENERAL KULP, THAT ROCKET HIT WITH THE FORCE OF 50 LOCOMOTIVES AT FULL SPEED!







GENTLEMEN, CONGRATULATIONS! THE WAR WILL END THE DAY WE LAUNCH THESE WEAPONS AGAINST LONDON!

SOON AFTERWARD WERNHER IS SUMMONED TO HIMMLER'S OFFICE...

MY CONGRATULATIONS, VON BRAUN! YOU WILL WANT MASS-PRODUCTION FOR YOUR ROCKETS, NO DOUBT! FOR BEST RESULTS, I SUGGEST YOU JOIN MY **PERSONAL STAFF!**

I'D LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT, REICH-FUHRER HIMMLER!



HESITATING, VON BRAUN? UNDER THE S.S., YOU'D BE FREE OF ARMY STUPIDITY AND RED TAPE!

I ALREADY **AM!** COLONEL DORNBERGER IS AN EXCELLENT SUPERIOR! IT WAS **HIGH LEVEL** INDIFFERENCE THAT CAUSED OUR DIFFICULTIES!



BETTER THINK ABOUT IT, DOCTOR! THE S.S. RUNS GERMANY NOW--AND WHAT THE S.S. WANTS, THE S.S. GETS!

THE NEXT DAY VON BRAUN LEARNS THE PENALTY FOR DEFYING HIMMLER...

DAYS OF SAVAGE INTERROGATION FOLLOW...



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? LET ME THROUGH!

OUT OF THE CAR! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST, DR. VON BRAUN, FOR **TREASON TO THE STATE!**



YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN WORKING ON MILITARY WEAPONS--YET YOU WERE WASTING YOUR TIME PLANNING SPACE SHIPS LIKE THIS!

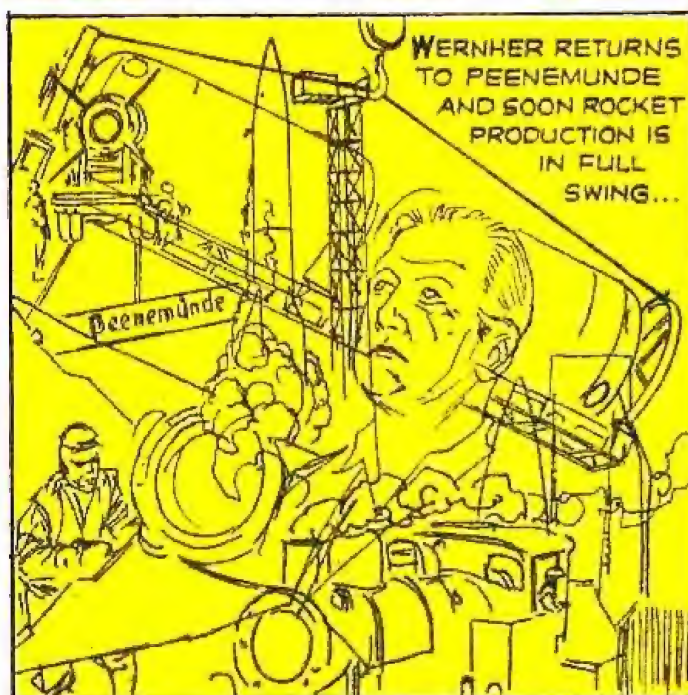
BUT SCIENTISTS **MUST** PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, GENERAL KULP! OR WE'D ALL STILL BE RIDING IN OXCARTS!





BUT MEANWHILE DORNBERGER HAS BEEN BUSY PULLING STRINGS...

THE REACTION COMES SWIFTLY! VON BRAUN IS RELEASED...







THIS ROCKET WEAPON OF YOURS, HOW CAN YOU BE SURE IT WOULDN'T HIT A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WHEN YOU FIRE IT?

MARIA, WE'RE FIGHTING A *WAR*! WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE BEING KILLED ON *BOTH SIDES*! WE *CAN'T* LET OURSELVES THINK ABOUT IT!

MEANWHILE REPORTS ON PEENEMUNDE ARE POURING INTO BRITISH INTELLIGENCE...



THIS IS THE LAST PHOTOGRAPH TO COME THROUGH! OBVIOUSLY A NEW TAIL-ASSEMBLY DESIGN!

OUR CONTACT AT PEENEMUNDE IS DOING A FINE JOB! BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT HER OUT OF THERE!

SUDDENLY A V-2 PLUNGES DOWN TO STRIKE HOME NEAR BY...



THAT WAS CLOSE! THAT V-2 IS QUITE A FIRE-CRACKER! I'D LIKE TO LAY HANDS ON THE GUY WHO THOUGHT OF IT!

DON'T WORRY, TOFTOY! WE'RE PLANNING OUR OWN FIREWORKS FOR THOSE V-2 GENIUSES!

ONE EVENING, A WEEK LATER, AS ELIZABETH ANSWERS THE PHONE AT PEENEMUNDE...



FRAULEIN ELIZABETH SCHNABEL?

ER--NO! THIS IS ELIZABETH BEYER! YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG EXTENSION!

BUT THE CALL IS A CODE SIGNAL! ELIZABETH MUST CONTACT A SECRET BRITISH AGENT AT ONCE...



OH, ANTON, I MUST LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! I ALMOST FORGOT MY DENTIST APPOINTMENT!

OF COURSE ELIZABETH! I'LL TELL WERNHER!

STRANGE! SHE DIDN'T REMEMBER THE APPOINTMENT UNTIL AFTER THAT PHONE CALL!



SUSPICIOUS, REGER CHECKS THE LOCAL DENTISTS...



THAT'S ODD!  
I CHECKED WITH  
ALL THE LOCAL  
DENTISTS! SHE  
HASN'T BEEN  
SEEN!

LOOK AT  
THOSE BRITISH  
BOMBERS  
HEADING FOR  
BERLIN! THEY  
SAY THE CITY  
IS A SHAMBLES!

BUT THIS TIME PEENEMÜNDE IS THE TARGET...



WE'RE IN  
FOR IT!

HEAD FOR  
COVER!

AND A MASSIVE BOMBING  
RAID SMASHES THE MIGHTY  
ROCKET BASE...



QUICKLY!  
INTO THE  
SHELTER!

I'M COMING, REGER! WE MUST  
SAVE EVERYONE WE CAN!

MEANWHILE, AT A CAFÉ AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...

MINUTES LATER...



ELIZABETH, DON'T BLAME  
YOURSELF! YOU ONLY DID  
YOUR DUTY, WHAT YOU  
BELIEVED IN!

NO! DON'T STOP  
ME! THEY'RE MY  
FRIENDS!



PLEASE! I MUST GET  
THROUGH! I'M ONE OF  
THE STAFF!

IT IS NO USE, FRÄU-  
LEIN! THERE IS  
NOTHING YOU CAN  
DO TO HELP NOW!



IN THE GRIM DAWN, WERNHER SURVEYS THE RUINS...



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE, WERNHER?

THANK YOU, ELIZABETH! THAT WAS QUITE A NIGHT! MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED DEAD, BUT AT LEAST WE SAVED OUR BLUEPRINTS!



YOU CHOSE THE RIGHT TIME TO GO TO THE DENTIST, ELIZABETH! TELL ME THE TRUTH NOW, WHERE DID YOU GO DURING THAT RAID?

ANTON, I-I TRIED TO GET BACK, BUT THE GUARDS WOULDN'T LET ME THROUGH THE PERIMETER!

YOU'RE DODGING THE QUESTION! AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH THOSE BLUEPRINTS THAT DAY? HERE, GIVE ME YOUR PURSE! I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!



ANTON, WAIT!

THAT LIPSTICK--IT WAS A CAMERA! YOU WERE WORKING FOR THE ENEMY! WHY, ELIZABETH? WHY?

BECAUSE OF MY HUSBAND, ANTON! HE WAS SERIOUS, BRILLIANT-- LIKE YOU! WE WERE BREAKFASTING WHEN THE S.S. BROKE IN AND SHOT HIM!



THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER MAN NAMED **BAYER**, NOT MY HUSBAND AT ALL! THEY CALLED IT A REGRET-TABLE **MISTAKE**! NOW YOU KNOW WHY!

SURELY YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT STORY?



I'LL HAVE TO REPORT YOU TO THE S.S.! THEY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SPIES!

YOU DARE TO JUDGE ME? ARE YOU BLIND TO ALL THE MISERY YOU HAVE CAUSED? I'M GLAD I HELPED TO STOP YOU!







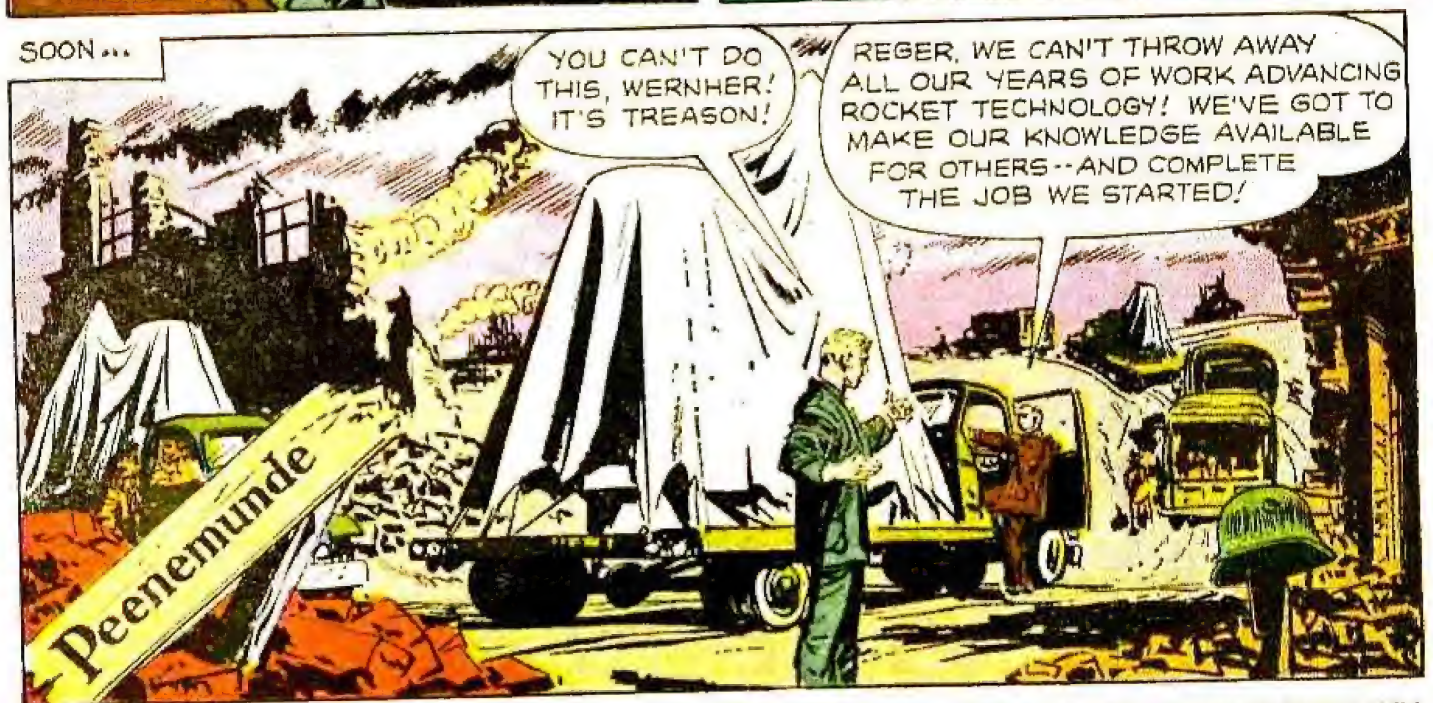
AT THE U.S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS, AS GERMANY BEGINS TO CRUMBLE...



WITH THE GERMAN ARMIES COLLAPSING, VON BRAUN CALLS A MEETING OF THE PEENEMÜNDE STAFF...









AT LAST THE CONVOY ARRIVES AT AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS...



BUT WERNHER AND HIS GROUP GET A COLD WELCOME...



IF ALL YOU GERMANS HAD STOOD UP TOGETHER, YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED HITLER AND ALL HIS BUTCHERY.

YOU NEVER LIVED UNDER A DICTATORSHIP, MAJOR! EVERY MAN DISTRUSTS HIS NEIGHBOR AND FEARS FOR HIS OWN LIFE! IN THAT RESPECT I AM GUILTY OF BEING HUMAN!



YOU ARE GUILTY OF PUTTING AN INFERNAL WEAPON INTO THE HANDS OF THE MOST EVIL GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD! FOR THAT YOU WILL BE TRIED AND HUNG!



MAJOR TAGGART, I'D LIKE A WORD WITH DR. VON BRAUN!

OF COURSE, COLONEL! I'M ABOUT THROUGH WITH HIM ANYWAY!

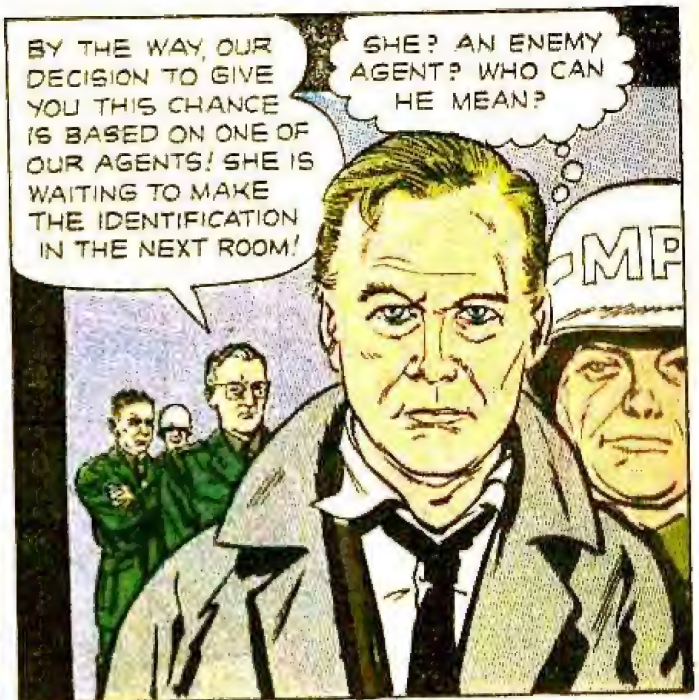


DOCTOR, WE RECOGNIZE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS! IF YOU WANT TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE YOUR RESEARCH, WE HAVE THE RESOURCES!

I'M HAPPY TO AGREE, SIR! THAT'S WHY I SURRENDERED! BUT I CAN'T MAKE ROCKETS BY MYSELF!









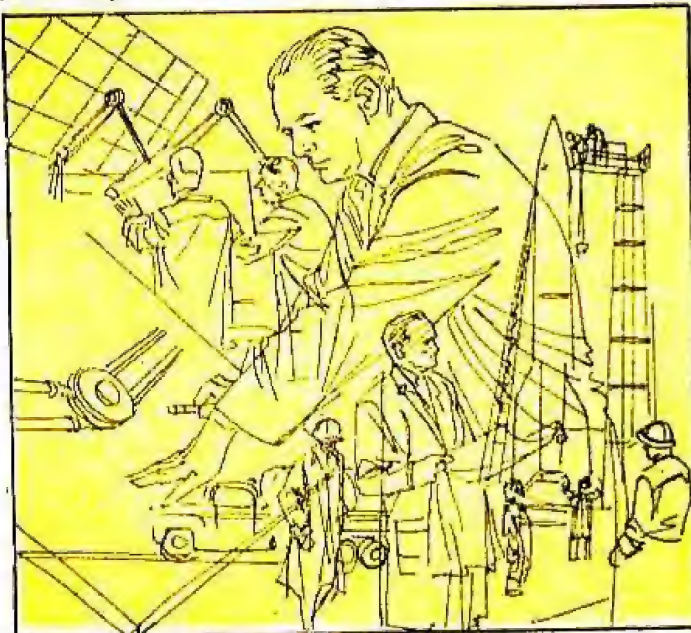






AND SO, FOR VON BRAUN WORK BEGINS AGAIN...

MONTH AFTER MONTH SUCCESS SEEMS NEARER...







BUT WITH THE PASSING MONTHS, WERNHER AND HIS FRIENDS BEGIN TO EARN ACCEPTANCE...

AND WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, WERNHER BRINGS HIS NEW BRIDE TO AMERICA...





THE YEARS MOVE SWIFTLY, BUT VON BRAUN DOES NOT FORGET HIS VISIONS OF THE FUTURE...

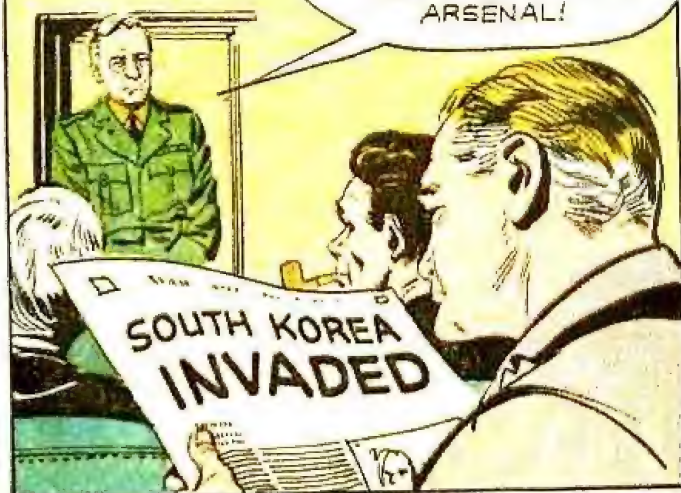
WE'VE CHECKED THE DESIGN A DOZEN TIMES! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BUILD AND LAUNCH IT--AND WE'D HAVE THE WORLD'S FIRST SATELLITE ORBITING THE EARTH!

YOU ARE AN INCURABLE DREAMER! WE CAN'T EVEN GET MONEY FOR AN ADEQUATE ROCKET PROGRAM!



THEN IN JUNE, 1950...

GENTLEMEN, THIS WAR HAS FORCED US INTO A CRASH PROGRAM! YOU'RE ALL BEING TRANSFERRED TO A NEW ARMY INSTALLATION AT REDSTONE ARSENAL!



THAT NIGHT TAGGART VISITS THE VON BRAUN HOME...

YOUR TRAVELING ORDERS, VON BRAUN! NOT LONG AGO YOU MADE ROCKETS TO FIRE AT US! NOW YOU'LL BE BUILDING ROCKETS TO FIRE AT OUR ENEMY!

DO YOU PREFER THAT I SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING, AND ALLOW AMERICA TO LOSE?



HOW WOULD THAT AFFECT YOU, DOCTOR? YOU'D BE RIGHT THERE WORKING FOR THE RUSSIANS!

IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY, WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT UNIFORM?



I WON'T BE WEARING IT AFTER TODAY! I'VE GOT A JOB AS A TV NEWS COMMENTATOR! BUT YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM ME! I'LL BE MAKING IT HOT FOR YOU!

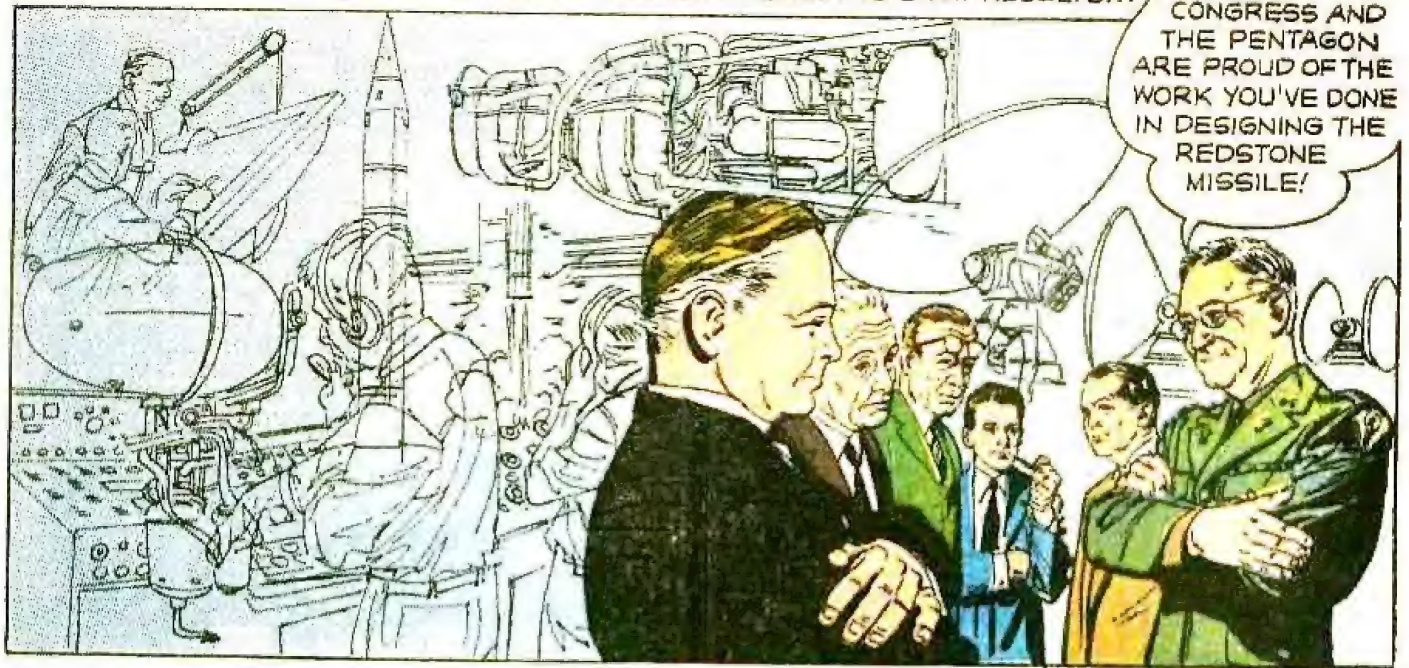
TAGGART IS RIGHT, WERNHER! YOU'LL BE MAKING ROCKETS FOR WAR AGAIN! YOU COULD REFUSE! OTHERS HAVE!

CAN'T YOU SEE? I MUST STAY WITH MY WORK! I CAN'T FALL BEHIND! PROGRESS, RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE ARE MY LIFE!



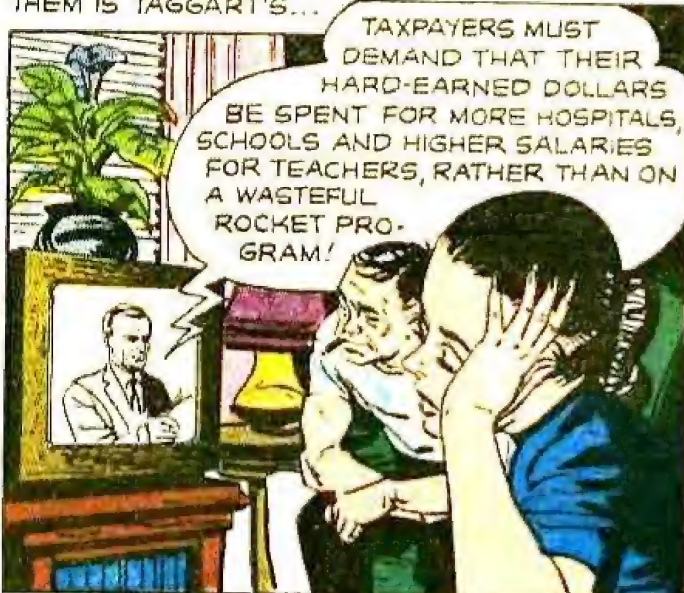


THE LONG MONTHS AT WORK AT REDSTONE ARSENAL BEGIN TO SHOW RESULTS...



CONGRESS AND THE PENTAGON ARE PROUD OF THE WORK YOU'VE DONE IN DESIGNING THE REDSTONE MISSILE!

BUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, VOICES ARE BEING RAISED AGAINST THE MISSILE PROGRAM. AMONG THEM IS TAGGART'S...



TAXPAYERS MUST DEMAND THAT THEIR HARD-EARNED DOLLARS BE SPENT FOR MORE HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND HIGHER SALARIES FOR TEACHERS, RATHER THAN ON A WASTEFUL ROCKET PROGRAM!

BUT THE END OF THE KOREAN CONFLICT BRINGS A CUT IN THE ROCKET PROGRAM...



NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER, CONGRESS JUST WON'T GIVE US THE MONEY FOR SPACE RESEARCH!

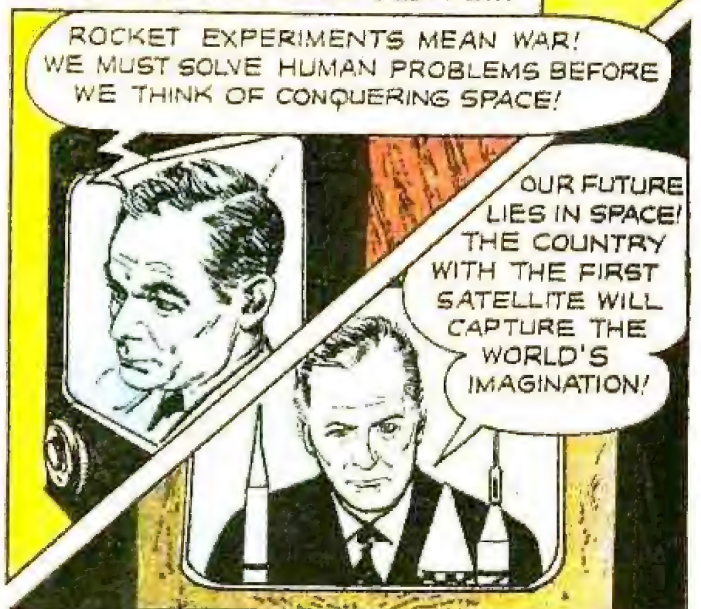
THERE MAY STILL BE A CHANCE, DR. OBERTH! THEY'RE ASKING ME TO GO ON TELEVISION TO EXPLAIN OUR SPACE PROGRAM TO THE PEOPLE!



A SPLENDID IDEA, WERNHER!

DO IT! IF ANYONE CAN CONVINCE AMERICA, YOU CAN! TELL THEM THE TRUTH AND ANSWER TAGGART THAT WAY!

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, A NATION LISTENS TO THE FIERCE DEBATE...



ROCKET EXPERIMENTS MEAN WAR! WE MUST SOLVE HUMAN PROBLEMS BEFORE WE THINK OF CONQUERING SPACE!

OUR FUTURE LIES IN SPACE! THE COUNTRY WITH THE FIRST SATELLITE WILL CAPTURE THE WORLD'S IMAGINATION!



VON BRAUN TALKS OF PURE SCIENCE, BUT HE IS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING OF LONDON!

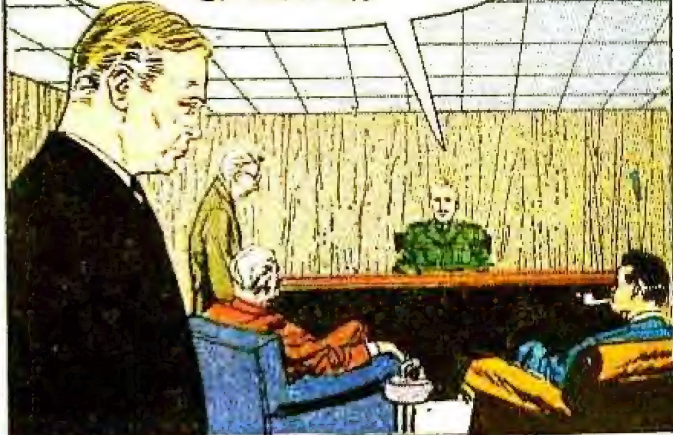


MAN MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH ATOMIC POWER AND ROCKETS, OR HE WILL PERISH!



THEN, ONE DAY THE ARMY MISSILE PROGRAM GETS A NEW CHIEF, GENERAL MEDARIS...

I AGREE WITH DR. VON BRAUN! WE MUST BACK UP THE PRINCIPLE OF THE FREEDOM OF OUTER SPACE WITH ADEQUATE RESEARCHING OR WE'LL END UP IN THE DUST OF HISTORY!



THEN ONE DAY AT REDSTONE...

WERNHER, THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO COOPERATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR! THEY'LL WANT TO CHECK THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE, IONIZATION LAYERS, COSMIC RAYS-- THE WORKS!



THEY'LL NEED A SATELLITE TO GET THAT INFORMATION! WE'VE GOT PROJECT STARLIGHT ALL PLANNED!

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE PENTAGON O.K.! BUT WITH OUR RECORD I'M SURE WE'LL GET THE JOB!



BUT THAT NIGHT COMES THE DISAPPOINTING NEWS...

I'M SORRY, MEN! THE WORD JUST CAME THROUGH! THE NAVY GOT THE ASSIGNMENT!

WELL, ALL WE CAN DO IS WISH THEM LUCK!



LATER THAT NIGHT...

BILL TAGGART, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE! IT'S THE NAVY DEPARTMENT THAT HAS THE BIG NEWS TONIGHT!

I KNOW, ELIZABETH, BUT VON BRAUN HAPPENS TO BE **HERE!** IF I DIDN'T HATE HIM SO MUCH, I'D FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!







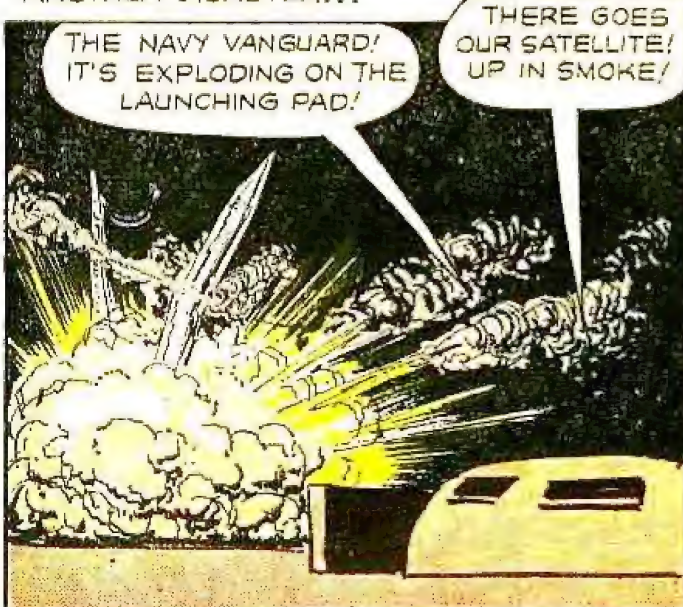
BUT AS THEY OPEN THE DOOR TO VON BRAUN'S OFFICE...



THEN, IN OCTOBER, 1957 COMES A BITTER BLOW...



THEN, ON THE 6TH OF DECEMBER, 1957, ANOTHER DISASTER...

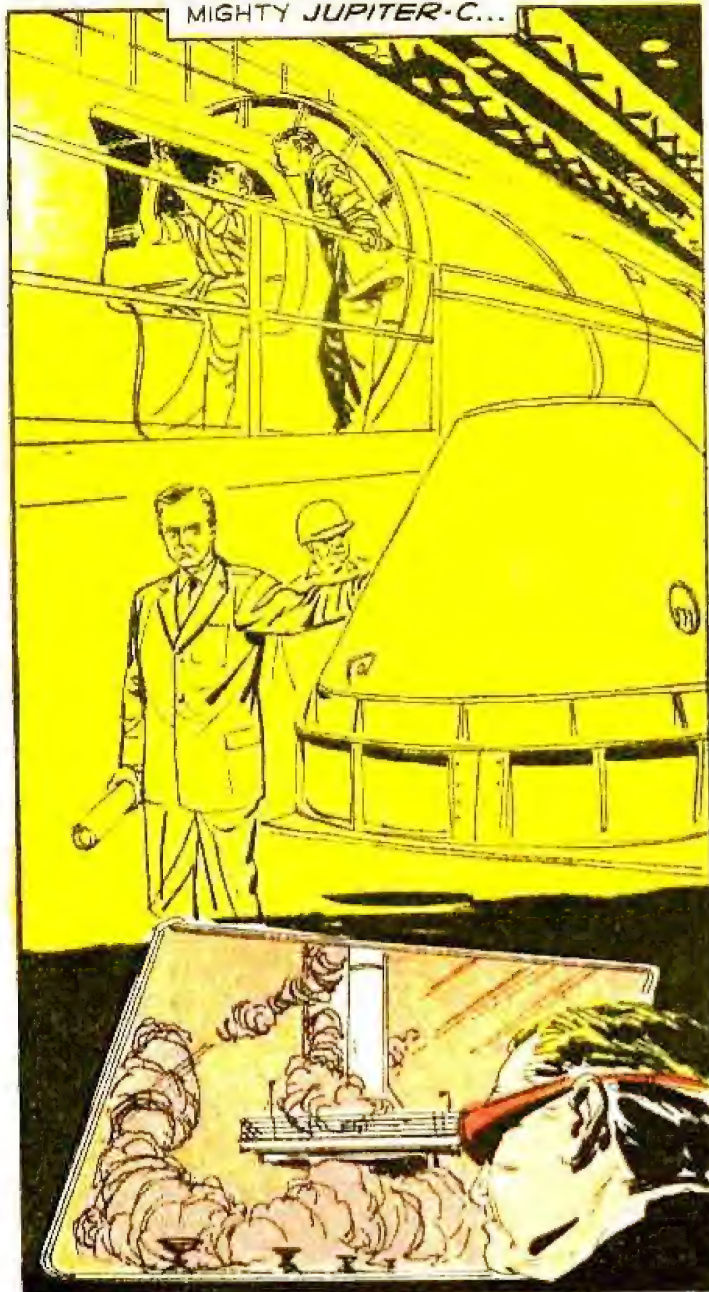


A TOP SECRET MEETING IS CALLED IN WASHINGTON...





AT REDSTONE, WERNHER AND HIS CREW WORK ON A NEW SATELLITE-CARRYING ROCKET, THE MIGHTY JUPITER-C...



THEN, ON THE NIGHT OF THE 31ST OF JANUARY 1958...

ONLY A FEW MINUTES LEFT, DR. VON BRAUN! THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU IN THE BLOCK-HOUSE!

WELL, SHE'S ON HER OWN NOW!



WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ZERO HOUR IS ALMOST AT HAND!

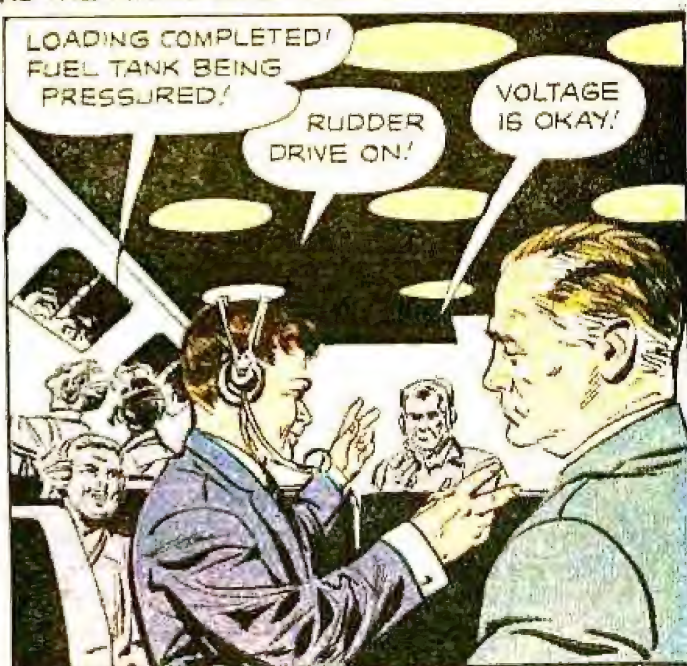


AS THE FIRING CHIEF CHECKS FINAL DETAILS...

LOADING COMPLETED!  
FUEL TANK BEING  
PRESSURED!

RUDDER  
DRIVE ON!

VOLTAGE  
IS OKAY!





THEN AS THE COUNT-DOWN ENDS, THE MIGHTY  
ROCKET THUNDERS UPWARD...



WELL, VON  
BRAUN'S  
ROCKET IS  
LAUNCHED,  
BUT  
THREE  
MORE  
STAGES MUST  
BE FIRED  
BEFORE IT  
GOES INTO  
ORBIT!



ALL STAGES FIRED  
SUCCESSFULLY!

NOW THE REAL WAIT-  
ING BEGINS! IT'LL BE  
AN HOUR AND FORTY-  
EIGHT MINUTES BEFORE  
WE KNOW  
WHETHER  
SHE WILL  
ORBIT!

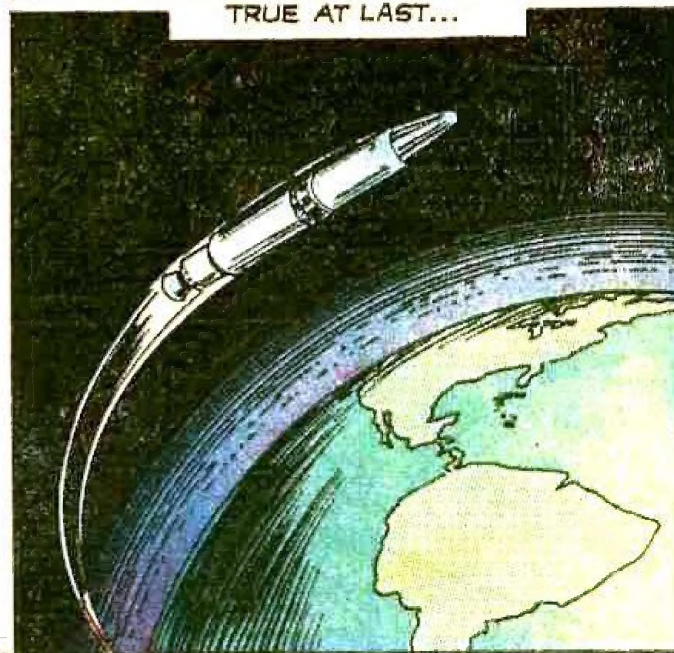
AS THE MINUTES DRAG BY THE TRACKING  
STATIONS BEGIN TO REPORT IN...



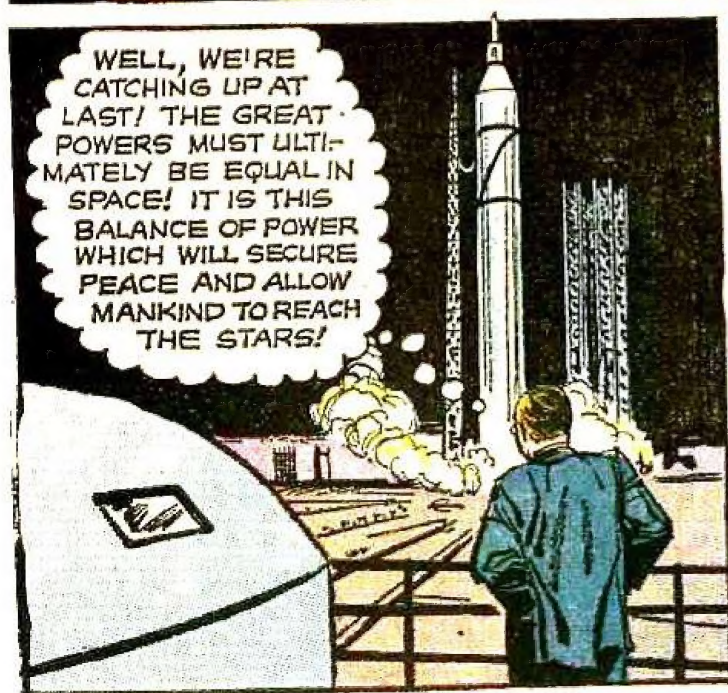
JODRELL BANK!  
SATELLITE OVERHEAD!  
SIGNAL CLEAR!

EARTHQUAKE  
VALLEY! SATELLITE  
PASSING! SIGNALS  
LOUD AND CLEAR!

AND SO WERNHER VON BRAUN'S DREAM CAME  
TRUE AT LAST...







A PLEDGE **DELL** COMIC TO PARENTS

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# THE ROCKET IN HISTORY



THE FIRST ROCKETS APPEARED IN CHINA ABOUT 1040 A.D. THEY WERE SOMETHING LIKE FIRECRACKERS ATTACHED TO ARROWS. IN BATTLE THEY HAD THE SAME EFFECT AS A RIFLE GRENADE.



THE USE OF THE ROCKET SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE ORIENT. NATIVE ROCKET TROOPS DEFEATED CRACK BRITISH REGIMENTS IN 18TH CENTURY INDIA.



IN ITALY ROCKETS WERE USED TO DEVELOP THE FINE ART OF PYROTECHNICS---OR FIREWORKS. THESE DISPLAYS BECAME FASHIONABLE AT ALL CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT EUROPE.



IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS THE BRITISH USED A MILITARY ROCKET DEVELOPED BY WILLIAM CONGREVE. A BARRAGE OF SUCH ROCKETS NEARLY DESTROYED THE CITY OF COPENHAGEN.



BEFORE WORLD WAR II THE MILITARY ROCKET BECAME TEMPORARILY OUTMODED. SCIENTISTS WERE EXPERIMENTING WIDELY WITH ROCKET-DRIVEN CARS, BOATS AND PLANES. SOME, LIKE WERNHER VON BRAUN EVEN DREAMED OF USING ROCKETS TO REACH THE STARS...



## ROCKET POWER OF TODAY

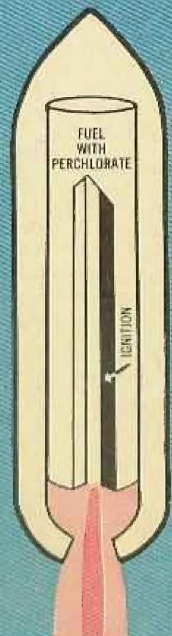
**LIQUID FUEL** (gasoline, alcohol or ammonia) drives the Jupiter, Redstone and other giant rockets of today. Fuel and oxidizer are burned in a combustion chamber. The exhaust jet produces the forward thrust.

**SOLID FUEL** rockets like the Honest John, Sergeant and Corporal use a fuel and oxidizer mixture formed into a solid material. A hollow core acts as a combustion chamber.

Liquid Fuel



Solid Fuel



## TYPES OF ROCKET PROPULSION

### ROCKET POWER FOR TOMORROW

**EXOTIC FUEL** rockets mix unusual fuels (liquid hydrogen, boron) and oxidizers to produce greater thrust than standard liquid fuels.

**METAL FUEL**, such as aluminum or magnesium particles in solution have a tendency to clog rocket plumbing. But when perfected such fuels will be cheap and abundant.

**FISSION POWER** rockets will use a nuclear reactor to heat liquid hydrogen. Vaporized and overheated hydrogen will form the jet. A small uranium supply could fuel long space flights.

**FUSION POWER** can take various forms. One proposal features a reactor that emits charged electronic particles (ions) into an ion chamber. Here vaporized water will repel the charged ions outward in a fantastically powerful jet exhaust.

**SOLAR POWER** engines will harness the sun's rays to a steam boiler that drives an electric generator. Electricity will break down the cesium fuel into an ion jet stream that will propel the rocket anywhere in the solar system.

Exotic Fuel



Metal Fuel



Fission Power



Fusion Power

